

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-20 are currently pending. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice; and Claim 7 has been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Title of the Invention was objected to as being non-descriptive of the claimed invention; Claims 2 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as Claims 1 and 7, respectively, of U.S. Patent No. 6,696,696 to Hasegawa et al. (hereinafter “the ‘696 patent”); Claims 1, 3-6, and 8-20 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-12 of the ‘696 patent; and Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-20 were indicated as allowable if the double patenting rejection is overcome.

In response to the objection to the Title, the Title has been amended to be more descriptive of the claimed invention. Accordingly, the objection to the Title is believed to have been overcome.

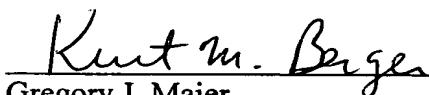
Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is rendered moot by the present cancellation of that claim. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 7. Claim 7 has been amended to delete the image processor limitation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 7 is patentably distinct from Claim 7 of the ‘696 application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-20 under the judicially doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting is rendered moot by the Terminal Disclaimer filed herewith.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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